

Stubblebine 109755con-1

IN THE CLAIMS:

52 - 55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for system security in a distributed system network that includes a security policy server, an identification authority server, a revocation authority server, verification authority server, and a user computer,~~ comprising:

a) ~~means for preparing a statement of an assigned revocation authority in a distributed system network in response to a policy, said revocation authority statement being associated with an initial statement;~~

b) ~~means for preparing a module within the identification authority server that, pursuant to a long-term policy received from said security policy server and a request from said user computer, prepares and sends to said user computer, via a public network to which said user computer, identification authority server, revocation authority server, and said verification authority server are connected, an identification certificate that includes statement of a freshness constraint period represented by a time duration referenced to time of said request by said user computer in the distributed system network in response to said policy, said freshness statement being associated with said revocation authority statement;~~

c) ~~a module within said revocation authority server for storing in a memory means for preparing a validity statement at said assigned revocation authority in the distributed system network in response to said a received short-term policy, and for updating said validity statement at specified intervals, said validity statement including a verification status at some temporal reference;~~

d) ~~means for providing, in response to a request initiated by said user computer, said identification certificate revocation authority statement, said freshness statement, and said validity statement retrieved from said memory, to said verification authority server, via said public network to a verification authority in the distributed system network; and~~

e) ~~a module within said verification authority server means for selectively verifying that said request is within said time duration and said validity statement~~

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permits serving said request by said user computer said initial statement or said verification authority in response to said initial statement, said revocation authority statement, said freshness statement, and said validity statement.